

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1485

EXDIS

DEPT PASS TO OTHER POSTS AS DEISRED

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CY, UN

SUBJECT: CYPRUS IN SC: DISCUSSION WITH BITSIOS

1. DURING A CONVERSATION I HAD WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS SUNDAY AFTERNOON I TOLD HIM I HAD SEEN REPORTS OF THE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE POSTURE THE GOG HAD BEEN ADOPTING IN RELATION TO SC PROCEEDINGS ON CYPRUS AND I KNEW THAT THIS WAS MOST APPRECIATED. I ASKED HIM WHAT HE EXPECTED THE OTUCOME TO BE IN NEW YORK OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND WHAT HIS HOPES WERE.

2. BITSIOS SAID THAT THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE GOG WAS TO COME OUT OF THE SC MEETING WITH A NEW APPROACH OR PROCEDURE FOR CONTINUING THE NEGOTIATIONS ON A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS THE MOST THAT COULD BE ACHIEVED. HE SAW NO POSSIBILITY FOR CLERIDES TO RETURN TO NICOSIA AND SIT DOWN THERE AND NEGOTIATE WITH DENKTASH IN THE LIGHT OF DENKTASH'S ACTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE TURKISH "FEDERATED STATE" A WEEK AGO FRIDAY. AT THE SAME TIME, BITSIOS FELT THAT ONLY CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO COMMUNITIES ON CYPRUS AND SPECIFICALLY CLERIDES AND DENKTASH OFFERED ANY REAL PROSPECT FOR AN AGREED SETTLEMENT. HE SAID GREECE WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER ANY OTHER REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE OR PROPOSAL BUT THAT FRANKLY HE SAW NO OTHER
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GOOD POSSIBILITY. HE SAID THAT FOR REASONS WELL KNOWN TO

BOTH OF US THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WAS A NON-STARTER. HE ALSO REFERRED TO A ROMANIAN IDEA FOR A GROUP OF THE "BALKAN" COUNTRIES, INCLUDING GREECE AND TURKEY, TO MEET AND TRY AND FIND SOME SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, ALTHOUGH HE WAS CERTAIN TURKEY WOULD NEVER ACCEPT THAT. HE ALSO THOUGHT THE EC-9 INITIATIVE COULD NOT REALLY HELP. THEREFORE, THE CLERIDES-DENKTASH FORUM REMAINED THE BEST HOPE.

3. HOWEVER, BITSIOS THOUGHT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION BETWEEN THEM WOULD BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF THE SITE COULD BE MOVED TO NEW YORK. THIS WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE THE PERSONAL PARTICIPATION OF WALDHEIM WITH HIS PRESTIGE AND AUTHORITY AND WOULD TEND TO APPLY INCREASED "INTERNATIONAL" PRESSURE TO CONCLUDE THE NEGOTIATIONS AND REACH SOME KIND OF SETTLEMENT PROMPTLY. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD BE "CLOSER TO WASHINGTON" THUS ENABLING THE SECRETARY AND THE USG TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE BEHIND-THE-SCENES ROLE.

4. I ASKED BITSIOS IF HE THOUGHT THE TURKS WOULD AGREE TO A NEW YORK SITE AND HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW BUT THAT HE HOPED SO. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THERE WAS ALSO A PROPOSAL TO HAVE THE TALKS HELD IN VIENNA BUT HE WOULD NOT FAVOR THIS. IN THE FIRST PLACE, HE THOUGHT WALDHEIM WOULD GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF OPENING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE TALKS BUT WOULD ULTIMATELY BE REQUIRED TO LEAVE THEM TO A LESSER UN OFFICIAL SUCH AS WECKMAN. ALSO, HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE SECRETARY AND HIS AMERICAN STAFF TO PLAY AS HELPFUL A BEHIND-THE-SCENES ROLE BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE SO CONSPICUOUS IN VIENNA, WHICH WOULD NOT BE TRUE IN NEW YORK. BITSIOS FELT THAT IF THE TALKS WERE MERELY MOVED FROM NICOSIA TO VIENNA THE RESULT WOULD BE AN "ABSOLUTE ZERO."

5. BITSIOS SAID THAT CLERIDES WOULD BE TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON TODAY TO MEET WITH THE SECRETARY AND WOULD EXPLAIN THE GREEK THINKING ON SOME OF THESE POINTS. HE SAID HE APPRECIATED THE SECRETARY'S CONTINUING CLOSE INTEREST IN THIS WHOLE SUBJECT AND HIS CONTINUING WILL-CONFIDENTIAL

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INGNESS TO BE HELPFUL.
KUBISCH

NOTE1 BY OC/T: NOT PASSED OTHER POSTS.

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